

FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
URBANA SENIOR CENTER
September 8, 2008

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Suzan M. Adams	Susan Hofstra	William P. Allen, PhD		Gil House
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Susan M Ramsburg Recording Sec	Rae Ann Butler		Mary Terselic
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair	Carolyn True	David Gray, Comm.		
Lloyd Hoover		Judy Hallman		
Ona M. John Kile		Alan Imhoff, Alderman		
Louise Lynch		Margaret Nusbaum		
Burt Shawver		Virginia Skelley		
Anna Mary Snyder		Robert Wannemacher		

- I. Call to Order – Hal Ehart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.**
- II. Welcome & Introductions –** Hal Ehart welcomed all attendees and introductions/affiliations were made.
- III. Approval of Minutes -** The minutes of the July 14th, 2008 meeting were approved without changes. All were in favor.
- IV. Commissioner’s Report –** no report at this time. David Gray and/or his Executive Assistant, Belinda Teague-Levy will be the new liaison from the BOCC
- V. “Lobbying 101” Update, Louise Lynch –** This was a very successful education session. The majority of attendees were from Frederick County. The trainers were very good as they are professionals in the field. Delegate Rick Weldon reviewed best practices for communicating effectively with local elected officials. On October 6th there will be another meeting in Hagerstown in which the Commission Advisory board for Washington County CoA will be meeting with their local delegation. The groups from Western MD hope to meet on a monthly meeting to have a stronger/larger voice when approaching the state delegation.

State Commission on Aging Activity Update, Louise Lynch –
There was no meeting in July or August. There are continuing to work on existing tasks.

Louise attended a meeting that was held by the United Seniors of Maryland group. The group was very disappointed in the attendance at the legislative rally held in January. Committees have been developed and people have committed time so the rally in January, 2009 will be more successful. We should contact our delegates to ensure that they understand that we expect to see them there so they can hear our concerns.

Senior Tax Credit Proposal, Hal Ehart – This Commission sent a letter to Mayor Holtzinger supporting the city tax credit proposal. There was no decisive outcome from the public hearing on August 20th. The city is proposing to give a tax credit to seniors on their city taxes to mirror the state tax credit. A motion to move forward and gather support for this city tax credit proposal and advocate for a county program as well was put to this Commission. It was approved by all. The first step will be to meet with Jan Gardner, President of BOCC and review with her the plan for support. The next step will be to attend meetings with all local jurisdictions and generate support from area senior citizens. This will be a priority task for the Commission this year. It will take time and effort from everyone on the Commission. Hal will keep everyone informed of progress. A reference sheet will be created to differentiate the different tax relief programs. Next tax season the Treasurer's office will be notifying the Department of Aging of seniors who are in jeopardy of losing their homes because of foreclosure. The Frederick County DoA will be tasked with helping these seniors.

VI. New Business – There is a need for Election Judges. If anyone is interested, please contact Noreen Schultz at the Board of Elections.

VII. Director's Report, Carolyn True - The Frederick News Post will publish a standalone magazine that will replace the *Most* magazine. They hope to have a first edition ready by January, 2009. They will be soliciting for advertisers. There is no information on cost or frequency of this publication. They will be looking for information and articles from senior organizations in the area.

The Department of Aging will be sponsoring informational seminars on "Weathering Winter" at each of the Senior Centers. Each session will include information on fire safety, weatherization tips, and an opportunity to complete an application for energy assistance.

On September 22, a bus from *Partnership for Prescription Assistance (PPA)* will be at the DoA building on Taney Avenue to help seniors who are need of prescription assistance.

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Earl Beck - The Maranatha Church of Frederick will be hosting Angel Food Ministry which is a program that allows participants to purchase food with food stamps and get more value than they would normally get at a grocery store. Participants would need to sign up on-line at Angel Food Ministry and contact the local host site.

Sue Adams – There is a new Gerontology program available at FCC. There are two new one-day programs. *Who are You Calling Old?* and *Compassionate Care at End of Life*.

VIII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: October 6, 2008 – October COA date changed because usual meeting date is a County holiday.